

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INDUSTRIALISTS TO ASSIST DC

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM AND ECMIN MAY 7 FRANCO MATTEI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CONFINDUSTRIA (CONFEDERATION OF ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION), OUTLINED ACTIVE ROLE WHICH ITALIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, OPERATING THROUGH CONFINDUSTRIA MECHANISM, PLANS TO TAKE IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. SPURRED BY URGINGS OF CONFINDUSTRIA PRESIDENT GIANNI AGNELLI, PARTICULARLY IN MAY 6 ADDRESS (ROME 7397), CONFINDUSTRIA WILL SEEK TO USE ITS RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATION IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES.

2. MORE SPECIFICALLY, MATTEI SAID CONFINDUSTRIA'S EFFORTS WOULD BE GEARED TO PERSUADING VOTERS LEANING TO PCI TO VOTE FOR PSI OR PRI, TO HOLD ONTO DC VOTE AND TO PERSUADE CONSERVATIVES TO FORESAKE MSI AND VOTE DC OR PLI. MATTEI SAID CONFINDUSTRIA HAS NO PROBLEM WITH PSDI, BUT BELIEVES THAT IT -- AND PLI -- WILL REMAIN POLITICALLY INSIGNIFICANT. IN ADDITION, CONFINDUSTRIA WILL WORK ON RELATED PROBLEM OF GETTING OUT THE VOTE. IF ADDITIONAL 3-4 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS COULD BE PERSUADED TO VOTE THIS TIME, MATTEI
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ASSERTED, THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF PCI GAINS.

3. CONFINDUSTRIA ACTIVITIES WILL APPARENTLY COVER TWO AREAS: FINANCING AND ORGANIZATION. CONFINDUSTRIA MEMBERS ARE BEING URGED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES. MATTEI IS OPTIMISTIC THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING AND CONFIDENT THAT FUNDS WILL BE REASONABLY WELL UTILIZED. ADDITIONALLY, CONFINDUSTRIA HOPES TO MOBILIZE MANPOWER TO ASSIST THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES (HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC ON WHAT THESE ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE) THROUGH ITS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. HE MENTIONED THAT BOARDS OF CONFINDUSTRIA'S VARIOUS CONSTITUENT GROUPS MADE UP OF 4,000 BUSINESSMEN, WHO QTE CAN BE MOBILIZED BY A TELEPHONE CALL UNQTE.

4. MATTEI FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH DCM'S STATEMENT THAT PRESENT PERIOD OF SELECTING PARTY CANDIDATES WAS CRUCIAL, PARTICULARLY INsofar AS DC CONCERNED. HE ASSERTED THAT IT ESSENTIAL FOR DC TO COME UP WITH NEW FACES. PROBLEM, AS HE SEES IT, IS NOT MERELY OLD FACES AMONG DC LEADERSHIP BUT ALSO QTE OLD IDEAS UNQTE. MATTEI NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE ACTIVE IN WORKING TOWARD THIS END IN COMING DAYS. PRI, HE ADDED, HAS SIMILAR PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY AT LEADERSHIP LEVEL -- I.E., AGE (AND TO SOME EXTENT OUTLOOK) OF UGO LE MALFA.

5. MATTEI SAID THAT CHANCES WERE NOW ABOUT 75-25 THAT AGNELLI WOULD DECIDE TO STAND FOR ELECTION WITH PRI, A DECISION HE WOULD WARMLY WELCOME AND ONE HE HAS URGED ON AGNELLI. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A FEW OTHER BUSINESSMEN ON PRI LIST, BUT NONE WILL BE WELL KNOWN.

6. MATTEI ALSO ALLUDED TO CONFINDUSTRIA ASSISTANCE TO IL GIORNALE'S TV NEWSCASTS OVER RADIO MONTE CARLO. WHILE HE DID NOT SPECIFY DETAILS OR DEGREE OF ASSISTANCE, HE STATED THAT NEWSCASTS WOULD SOON COVER ALL OF ITALY AND RUN TO HALF HOUR PER DAY.

7. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, WE HAVE ALSO HEARD OF A SIMILAR BUT APPARENTLY INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE BY A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN. THEY HAVE ORGANIZED
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THEMSELVES AND GONE TO THE DC WITH THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITIONS: WE WILL HELP YOU WITH SUBSTANTIAL FUNDING AND ORGANIZATIONAL TALENTS, AS WELL AS PRESS ASSETS, ON CONDITION THAT THE DC OFFER FIFTY PROMISING DC ELECTORAL LIST POSITIONS TO PERSONS ON A LIST OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED PREPARED BY GROUP. LIST INCLUDES PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS FROM BUSINESS, BANKING, LABOR, UNIVERSITIES, SCIENCE,

JOURNALISM, AND THE BAR, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN. PEOPLE INCLUDED ON THE LIST HAVE NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN POLITICS BEFORE AND ARE SAID TO INCLUDE ALL SHADES OF POLITICAL OPINION FROM CONSERVATIVE TO SOCIALIST. GROUP IS SAID TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY AND TO FEEL THAT THIS ELECTION IS THE LAST CHANCE. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE DC, FOR ALL ITS FAULTS, IS THE BEST HOPE FOR STOPPING THE PCI BUT THAT, TO DO SO, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DC SHOW A NEW FACE TO THE VOTING PUBLIC. GROUP THREATENS TO USE ITS MONEY AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILL TO FIGHT THE DC IF IT SHOULD TURN DOWN THEIR OFFER. THEY TALKED PRELIMINARILY TO BARTOLOMEI, ANDREOTTI, AND PICCOLI, ALL OF WHOM SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME AND SUPPORT IT. THE GROUP SPENT ALL OF MAY 7 NEGOTIATING WITH THE DC, AND THOSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING TODAY. IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO PROVIDE INDUSTRIALISTS' GROUP WITH 30 SLOTS ON CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ELECTORAL LISTS AND 15 ON LISTS FOR SENATE. NEGOTIATION IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE THIS WEEKEND AND WE WILL REPORT ON FINAL RESULTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE WITH DC LEADERSHIP THIS KIND OF INITIATIVE, WITHOUT OF COURSE COMMITTING OURSELVES ON PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS.VOLPE

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